XXVI.

A LETTER FROM A Gentleman in *Germany*, touching the Discovery OF A Strange Murder, Committed there, by a Person OF QUALITY, UPON A Lustfull *FRYER:* For endeavouring to Corrupt his LADY.

Being A Translation.

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XXVI

A

LETTER

FROM A

Gentleman in *Germany*, touching the Diſcovery

OF A

Strange Murder.

Sir,

HAving nothing further of News, more than what I communicat to you in my Laſt; I thought fit in order to the Maintenance of the Correſpondence between us, to give you the following Relation: Which for the Stranegneſs thereof, I Queſtion not but will meet with a ſuitable Reception.

A Gentleman of Quality In the Neighbourhood of *Vienna*, having in the late War Signaliz'd himſelf in the defence of the ſaid Town, during the time of his Service, he recieved an accidental Shot from the Enemies Battery, that Diſabled him from the further Engageing

ſelf in that War. Whereupon, this Noble Gentleman retired himſelf further up in the Country; where he had a Lady of ſuch *Beauty* as attracted the Eyes of all Men: Who reſiding with her *Husband*, in a ſeat of his near adjoyning to a *Convent*, which this Gentleman had formerly Built; and allowing Maintenance to an *Abbot* and 12 *Fryers*: It hap'ned that 2 *Fryers* one called Father *Conſtantine*, and the other Father *Conrade*, who were at continual Variance and Enmity to each other, and could by no Means be Reconciled; inſomuch, that the whole *Covent* took particular notice thereof: And it being the Daily Cuſtom of this Gentleman and his Lady, who intended a Life of Devocion to reſort to Prayers every Morning, the Lady being of an Affable and Courteous Diſpoſition: this good Behaviour of hers, bred an uncivil Boldneſs in Father *Conſtantine*, ſo that ſhe never came near the *Cloyſters*, but he was ſtill attending her with *Bows*, *Cringes* and *Complements*, and ſhe ſuſpecting nothing, returned him Thanks: which ſo far Encouraged the *Fryer*, that he reſolved at laſt to Write to her, and therein diſcover his Paſſion; which accordingly he did; and with much Difficulty conveyed the ſame to the Ladys Hand: Who being much Surpriſed that ſuch Laciviouſneſs ſhould proceed from one that Vowed and profeſs'd Chaſtity, was reſolved to Diſcover the ſame to her Lord, which ſhe had no ſooner done, but he began to Repent him of his former Charity, in regard of this ſo great Ingratitude; yet meditateing Revenge, he ordered his Lady to Write in Anſwer to this Letter, that ſhe was very Compaſſionate of his Love; and that ſuch a Night her Husband being to go to Court, he ſhould be admitted, and Lodge according to his deſire.

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The *Fryer* received the Letter with extreame Joy, and accordingly obſerving the Hour, he was admitted by the Lady her ſelf,)and Conveyed into a private Chamber: Where he was no ſooner entred, but in came the Gentleman with a Servant or two in great Fury, without giving him the leaſt time to call to the Houſe or Heaven, they Strangled the Luſtfull *Fryer*, and left him Dead upon the Place: Which was no ſooner done, but the Gentleman began to conſider the Horror and Danger of the Fact, both as to his Life and Eſtate; and after ſeveral Projects, he at laſt concluded with his Servants to have the Body Conveyed back into the *Monaſtry*, being divided from his own Houſe only by a *Stone-Wall*; and finding a Ladder hard by, one of the Servants mounts it with the *Fryer* upon his Back, and ſits with him awhile on the *Wall*, then drawing up the Ladder, and letting it down on the other ſide, he deſcends into the *Convent*, where ſpying the *Houſe of Office*, he ſets the Body thereon, as upright as poſſible, and ſo leaves it, and Conveys himſelf over the *Wall* again, but for haſt forgot the Ladder, and tells his Maſter how he had diſpoſed the *Fryer*; at which being better Satisfied, they retired to Bed, the matter being concealed from the reſt of the Family, being faſt a Sleep: But ſo it hapned, that as ſoon as the Servant got over the *Wall*, Father *Conrade* being troubled with a Looſneſs, haſts down to the *Houſe of Office*, where by the Light of the *Moon*, he percieved *Fryer Conſtantine*, his old Adverſary, got upon the Seat before him, who the louder he call'd, ſeemed the leſs to Hear; whereat thinking this pretended Deafneſs was out of Spite to Vex him, he ſnatches up a *Brick-bat*, and ſtriking him on the Breaſt, down tumbles *Fryer Conſtantine*, without

Life

Life or Motion; which *Conrade* seeing, thought at first to raise him up, but after many Trials finding him to be stone Dead, he believed he had Kill'd him; and began to Consult with himself what he should do in this case, the Gates were fast Locked, and flie for his Life he could not: But as sudden Extremity sometimes meet sudden Shifts, he spying the Ladder against the *Wall*, presently apprehends what had been Whispered of *Fryer Constantines* Love to the Lady, and lifting him upon his Shoulder, by the help of the Ladder conveyed him into the Gentlemans Porch, and there left him; Conveying himself into the *Monastry* the same way he came, being not in the least Suspected. In the mean while the Gentleman being troubled in his Conscience, could not Sleep, but calling up one of Servants bids him listen to the *Walls* of the *Monastry*, which as he was about to do, passing the Porch, he spies Father *Constantine* siting upright upon the Bench; at which being greatly amazed, he run back and acquainted his Master therewith; who no less Surprized, could not believe the same, till he went down and became Eye Witness thereof; and being extreamly concerned, reflected on himself that Murder was a Crying Sin, and was seldom or never Concealed; yet recolecting his Memory, he resolved to try a Desperate Adventure, and put the Discovery upon Chance: And remembring he had an old *Stallion* in the *Stable* that had served him in the War, and likewise a Rusty Suit of *Armor* in his *Armory*; this he commands instantly to be brought with a Case of Rusty *Pistols* and a *Launce*; the Horse was Imediately made Ready, and the Dead *Fryer* mounted and bound fast to the Saddle; thus like a compleat Knight they turn'd him out of the Gate to

try

try his Adventures. Whilſt theſe things were thus ſitting, *Fryer Conrade* in the *Monaſtry* was no leſs perplexed in his Mind than the Gentleman about the Murder; and much Dreading the ſtrictneſs of the Law, ſummond his Wits about him how to eſcape with his Life, which he thus Concluded: remembring there was in the *Convent* a *Mare* that was employed to carry *Corn* to and from a *Mill* about half a Mile from the *Monaſtry*, and being ſomewhat Fat, and doubting his Foot-manſhip, he thought it was better to truſt to 4 Legs than 2; whereupon he calls up the Baker that had charge of the Beaſt, and tells him he underſtood there was ſome Meal to be fetched that Morning from the Mill, which was Grinded by that time; and therefore if he would let him have the *Mare*, he would fetch it home for him, and ſave him the Trouble: The Fellow being glad of the Offer, cauſed the Back-Gate to be Opened, out of which the *Fryer* Rid, juſt at the ſame time when the Gentleman and his Servant had turn'd out *Fryer Conſtantine*, to ſeek his Fortune as aforeſaid. Whereupon the *Horſe* preſently ſcents the *Mare*, and Gallops after her, but *Fryer Conrade* looking back, was amazed to ſee an Armed Knight follow him; but much more when by the Light of the *Moon* and the Beaver flying up, he percieved it was *Fryer Conſtantine* that was thus Armed; and thereupon flies as faſt as he could: but after him, or rather after the *Mare* Speeds the *Horſe*: A great Noiſe there was, and *Fryer Conrades* ill Fate led him into a certain Turn-again-Lane, where he was overtaken by the *Stone-Horſe*, who covered the *Mare*; which cauſed a great Noiſe, and *Fryer Conrades* Conſcience thereupon Accuſing him, he cries out Guilty of Murder; at the Noiſe whereof the People gat out of

their

their Beds and run into the Street; where *Fryer Conrade* Confeſs'd the Horrid and Unhumane Act he had done, in Murdering one of his *Convent*; which was look'd upon as a Judgment from *Heaven*, and believed from the former Grudge between them. Whereupon *Fryer Conſtantine* was Diſmounted and carried to his Grave, and *Fryer Conrade* was committed to Priſon, Arraigned and Condemned; but before Execution, the Gentleman poſts to the *Emperour*, and made his Confeſſion of the whole Fact: Whereupon in reſpect of his former Service he was Pardoned by the *Emperour*, and *Fryer Conrade* Acquitted.

Thus Sir, you have the particulars of this Comical Tragedy; if I may ſo term it: Which I hope may Divert you, as it has done us in this Neighbour-hood. And in my next, I hope to give you an account of the Surrender of *Buda*: The Duke of *Lorrain* being greatly Enforced by the acceſſion of the *Bavarian Troops*, which hath Encouraged his Army to a Wonder. This is all at preſent, with my Service to your Self and Lady, I remain

Your humble Servant
Abraham Vandenberg.

September the 11*th.*
1684.

FINIS.